

## • Abroad •

**Paris.** All informed persons here understand that Brigitte Bardot's "defiance of the OAS," much publicized abroad, was a fraud staged by the Left (with the delighted support of her press agent) through the medium of the *Mendésiste* weekly, *L'Express*. In its issue of Nov. 30 *L'Express* plastered a couple of pages with photostats of two letters. One—mimeographed except for the address—was signed "J. LENOIR, Chief of the Financial Services of OAS," and demanded from BB 50,000 NF (\$12,500), with dire threats for non-compliance. This had allegedly reached the magazine enclosed in another letter, in BB's own charming hand, also photostated, and addressed to the editor-in-chief of *L'Express*, as presumably the most appropriate protector against such a murderous extortion threat. BB was terribly brave: the villains "will be quickly put where they can't harm anyone if they everywhere meet a total and public refusal by the persons whom they seek to terrorize by their threats and crimes. In any case, as for me, it's no deal (*'je ne marche pas'*), because I have no wish to live in a Nazi country."

**Rome.** Enrico Mattei, spectacular boss of the Italian energy trust, ENI, has begun negotiations with an Austrian firm controlled by Moscow through the Garant insurance trust. Last winter Mattei made his first big deal for Russian oil in exchange for Italian machines and chemicals. His present objective is a pipeline system to carry Russian oil to central Europe, West Germany, Switzerland and Italy. If Mattei's plans are driven through, the economies—and military forces—of two of the principal NATO nations will become dependent for this key strategic material on the Kremlin.

**Katmandu, Nepal.** Back of the current Sino-Indian flare-up and Nehru's unaccustomed belligerence of tone lies an autumn development that went largely unnoticed in the Western world. In October, King Mahendra of this border state—traditionally within the Indian sphere of influence—visited Communist China. While he was in Peiping the Nepalese and Communist Chinese Foreign Ministers signed a treaty—of which the text has been kept secret—whereby the Chinese are to build a road connecting Katmandu with China via the Tibetan capital of Lhasa. There has never been a road from Nepal northward. Its outlets have always been south to India, and there is no present economic reason, from Nepal's standpoint, for a northward road. Its primary function is clearly strategic and political: to give China a strategic approach to Nepal that will counterbalance India's.

**Rio de Janeiro.** While President Joao Goulart's wildly inflationary policies drive the value of the cruzeiro to new lows daily, his brother-in-law, Brizzola, busies himself with the zooming *Frente Nacional Liberaçao* (National Liberation Front) which he and Mauro Borges,

governor of Minas Gerais, founded two months ago. The FNL is a classic nationalist-democratic-revolutionary united front. Politically, it joins the nominally outlawed Communists to the radical peasant, labor and student tendencies and the anti-U.S. "national-revolutionary" middle class elements such as supported Fidel Castro in the early Cuban phases. Geographically, the FNL straddles the whole country by linking the southern Goulart-Brizzola stronghold of Minas Gerais with the notoriously impoverished northeastern region. Francisco Juliao, leader of the Peasant Leagues in the northeast, is a charter FNL member. In the past he posed as nationalist and Socialist. Last week, taking his cue from the triumphant Castro, Juliao stated publicly: "I am a Communist and don't care who calls me one. What I want to do is to transplant the Cuban and Russian regimes to Brazil."



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 "Mind you—I'm not saying there aren't a few  
 I'd sooner see dead than red."

**London.** The following quotation from the principal columnist ("Charon") of the influential left-wing *New Statesman* will suggest why it is proving difficult to get a "solid Western front" on "the German question": "For one who has a phobia—not, as I think, utterly unfounded—of armed Germans, any attempt to keep Germany dis-united has my enthusiastic support. The more walls they build between East and West the safer I feel. What I cannot understand is why there should be all this indignation, these idiotic suggestions that perhaps we ought to have sent bulldozers in to knock the first wall down the moment the East Germans started putting it up. . . . I thought everybody—except, possibly, a few professional historians—knew by now that more than half the troubles and tragedies of Europe in this century, including the aberrant behavior of the Germans themselves, stems from their forced and unnatural unification under Bismarck. Is the prospect of a second unification under Krupps . . . any less alarming?"

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